United Nations S/2002/714

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 June 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 25 June 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the Memorandum of Understanding for the cessation of hostilities and the resolution of the outstanding military issues under the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex), which was signed on 4 April 2002 by the Angolan Armed Forces and the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA). My Adviser for Special Assignments on Africa, Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim A. Gambari, briefed the Security Council on this subject on 23 April 2002.

As you are aware, the Memorandum of Understanding provides, among other things, for the quartering, demobilization and reintegration of UNITA soldiers. It is envisaged that the United Nations would participate as an observer in the implementing bodies set up by the Memorandum, namely the Joint Military Commission and the technical groups.

In a letter addressed to me, dated 15 April 2002, the President of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos, requested the United Nations to provide assistance in the organization and management of the quartering areas and in the reintegration of UNITA soldiers.

To prepare appropriate recommendations to the Council on the tasks of the United Nations in support of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, I asked Mr. Gambari to lead an integrated assessment team to Angola. The team will submit its findings to me shortly. Those findings will form the basis of my recommendations to the Security Council with regard to the tasks and mandate of the United Nations presence in Angola, which I intend to present before the expiry of the current mandate of the United Nations Office in Angola on 15 July 2002.

In the meantime, and in view of the considerable progress already made in the quartering process, I am seeking the urgent approval of the Security Council for the deployment of up to 10 military liaison officers to Angola to support the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. For the time being, these officers would be stationed in Luanda, pending the establishment of the necessary logistical and other conditions for movement outside the capital. This deployment would be without prejudice to the mandate that the Council may decide upon, following the submission of my report.

02-45055 (E) 010702

To expedite the proposed deployment, I have already approached several Member States and requested them, on a contingency basis, to make available qualified military personnel who could travel on short notice upon the Council's approval. It is foreseen that the military observers will be required for an initial period of three months.

There is now a real opportunity to establish the peace and stability to which the people of Angola have aspired for so long. It is therefore important that the United Nations provide support and assistance to this process and the above request is made in that spirit.

I should be grateful if you would bring this request to the attention of the Security Council with a view to an early decision.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**